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Korotych in Paris

Source: M & K

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K's meetings in Paris comprised the following:

- ** an hour with Koshelivets and Andiyevska May 12.
- ** private reception at the home of A. Vyrsta May 12
- ** sightseeing with Mytovych and Koshelivets May 13
- ** trip to airport with Vyrsta early morning of May

When K arrived in Paris he made a point of meeting Koshelivets, although he was met at the airport by Vyrsta, who was notified by "Melnykivsky network" from Canada of K's arrival. K called Kosh. by phone and asked him to come to a meeting. Koshelivets thus arrived with his wife at Vyrsta's place an hour before the reception, ^{at 18.30} and the host left the three of them alone.

K was very glad to see Kosh. He told him a number of compliments for SUCHANIST and for Kosh's writings.

Early in their meeting K told Kosh. that "Svitlychny will be in trouble" for passing on the materials on Symonenko to SUCHANIST.

Kosh.: "Why, we did not get it from him."

K did not argue the point, only explained that "we all gathered Symonenko's writings, and we all taped poems in Svitlychny's place." He also said that he doubts any harm would come to Svitlychnyy, but he will be dragged through the channels for questioning.

About Svitlychnyy and Drach K said that they are both of peasant stock, and he (K) is the only native of the city, hence the different approaches to writing.

After Rylakyy's death, Dazhan assumed the unofficial duties as patron of the young writers. And Oleksiy Poltoratsky acts as the "foreign affairs minister" for the writers.

On the general situation in Ukraine K expressed an opinion that the removal of Khrushchev should improve things. He laid the troubles the young writers are having to weak characters in the Party, who bend with the tide.

After this "tete-a-tete" others joined them for a reception.

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Reception

Present at the reception were: Prof. O. Pulchyt'skyy, Mrs. Ulo-benko, Mrs. Siyak, the Zhukovskys, Dr. Lukiyanovych, Mrs. Shtul (sans her party leader husband, who decided not to attend), Martha Kalytovska, Dmytro Andrievskyy, ~~students Smolkevych~~ ^{Mr. Rays} and another student, as well as the Koshelivetses, ~~and~~ Source, and the hosts.

K's impressions of Canada

He enjoyed meeting Ukrainians there, particularly the young people. He said he also met Prime Minister Pearson and Leader of the Opposition Diefenbaker, and university professors, especially in Alberta. He was bitter about the discussions on "to meet or not to meet" with Soviet tourists to Canada. His view is that anyone who does not want to meet them, does not have to. He mentioned that he wrote the "Canadian Farmer" about it, stating that he indeed came to Canada "to disintegrate" -- the Canadian prairies and the Eskimos, who probably need it the most. Later he returned to this theme in private, saying that no one can "disintegrate" or shake the beliefs of another. They either have something to tell one another or they do not.

Ukraine's New Generation of writers, et al.

K said his coevals do not form any clearly defined group, but they know each other and are aware of their influence on the young generation in general. At times some of them get together and read their works. He personally often meets Drach and Vin'nyahovskyy. He spoke highly of Drach's contribution in the production of the film "Tini zabutykh predkiv" (Shadows of the forgotten ancestors), and that this film is a milestone, which unfortunately will probably be hard to convey to the foreign viewer. About Vin'nyahovskyy he said that the man is very able, but his performances are not always great.

Among the poets and writers in Ukraine, the names of their counterparts in the west are known, he said. He specified it by saying "those that are often published in the SUCHASNISt", parti-

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the most read and respected of the emigre publications, and that all the literati may read it, either at the Writers Association or the Association for Cultural Relations. Here he also said that in preparation for his trip abroad he was given a number of books and periodicals about the emigres, when he asked for them.

Children and Parents Conflict

Rylskyy's ideas on ~~this~~ problem were clear, he said, and added that Rylskyy was the spiritual father of the young generation. He taught them and defended them. Now this function fell to Bazhan, who is doing it well, and who devotes much of his time to the young writers.

He said he "would not censure" Tychyna. It's hard to conceive anyone creating something great after going through what T. had gone through. His achievements are in the past, and they are immortal, said K. This also applies to the rest of T's generation.

About the writers of the 20s more is known now, he said, and mentioned Zerov's rehabilitation. He also said that he had a very interesting meeting with Yuriy Klen's son in Canada.

Stalin's period, he said, created a great vacuum in Ukrainian literature, as well as in the whole Soviet environment.

Later K read a few of his published poems -- nothing of the "angry" stuff, simply the lyrical poetry. Emma Andiyevska also read one of her own poems.

About Himself

K said he feels, or considers himself a free person, and he has respect only for people who also feel free. He has to be a practicing physician, because this way, he does not have to "fulfill plans", and instead writes only when and what he feels like. He said he has developed his own view of the emigres, but he is not getting ready to accuse them of anything. He said he had not been aware that Ukrainian cultural life is that well developed abroad, and also tried to leave an impression that meetings with Ukrainians in Canada did not change his political or ideological outlook.

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Ukrainian Language

K made very little or no comments on remarks about the stories from tourists, who say that in Kiev few persons speak Ukrainian, and on the "language war" conducted by Literaturna Ukraina. He did admit in universities important lectures and textbooks used for medicine are in Russian, but added that things are improving. On the whole he was on the defensive and emphasised his own independent thinking.

Others observations during reception

K exchanged a few publications with Rays, but he would not take Koshelivets' book when offered by Source, saying that he already has a copy and that he had already read it. He would not even take a copy with Kosh's autograph. He also did not accept a book by Hlobenko, offered by his wife.

From the reception K left for Montmarts with some of the guests but apparently they did not stay very long, because K was dead tired.

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K did not want to see anyone in the morning, because he said he had to call his embassy, and also wanted to visit Vyrsta's studio. V. is a painter. He agreed to meet Source and Kosh. in the evening.

Source and Kosh. picked him up at his hotel and they went to an existentialist restaurant in St. Germain. Source believes this environment made an impression on K. because it was full of young people, full of life's dynamism, discussions and philosophy.

K said young people in Ukraine seem to be more interested in philosophy than in literature. He mentioned the name of a French philosopher Teilhard de Chardin. Also that Marxism is lectured in a very dull way in Ukraine. He feels that Stalinism was a deviation from Marxism. K carried a very intelligent discussion, but would not expose his personal beliefs or philosophy.

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About Symonenko

K said Symonenko's cancer was so advanced that it was impossible to cure it. He suggested that there is nothing wrong in reprinting Symonenko's works, but the publication of some of the unpublished works may cause a lot of trouble for all the "custodians of his heritage" in Kiev. In reprinting Soviet Ukrainian writers abroad, he said, one should avoid political commentaries. He gave this example: It became known in Kiev that Shlyakh Peremohy called one poet, for his patriotic verses, "a representative of of the UPA generation. This, said K, ^{an unfortunate} ~~was~~ compliment for this poet.

About Kychko

K said he does not know him personally. He thought the Academy agreed to publish his work on Judaism because it was a doctoral dissertation. K was surprised that this book created such a furor abroad, because in Ukraine no one paid any attention to it.

About Pohruzhal'skyy

K thought Pohr. was a madman, but he said the fire in the Library stirred much interest because it occurred at a time when there were a lot of foreigners in Kiev for the Shevchenko celebrations. K posed a question to the effect that was it not odd that that the fire occurred at such a strange time, and that fire, rather than other methods were used to suppress Ukrainian rare books. But he admitted that the act was a criminal one; ~~and~~ he said he did not know any details about the trial, or the investigation.

Others observations

Shevchenko observances in 1961 and 1965, he said, were great shows of spiritual force of the youth. He also spoke highly of the Shevchenko monuments in Winnipeg and Washington. (He received a Shevchenko medal from Vyrsta).

Source and Kosh. took K for a champagne to the Lido and showed him the night market Les Halles. The meeting ended around 3 a.m.

Kosh presented KOROTYCH also with a gas lighter and MYZHOV with a tie.

In the opinion of both Sources ,KOROTYCH is a very intelligent clever young man, alert, observant, resilient, and evasive. Also quite an experienced psychologist. Whatever question he was pressed upon he managed to answer with generalities or by resorting to his own experience or some individual fact to circumvent the essence of the topic and to give "an answer" without really answering.